



LIVE THE LEGEND

THE CAVALRY CHARGE

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America's First Team

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Long Knife troops prepare for JRTC



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

By Spc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas— Soldiers assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, prepared for their month-long field exercise at the Division Rapid Reaction Field (DRRF) and rail operations center, June 2.

Troops ensured their tactical vehicles were staged and ready for transport at the DRRF site; then they moved the vehicles to the railhead where they will be loaded on a train and transported to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La.

“It’s important to ensure the brigade’s vehicles are loaded on these rail cars safely,” said Capt. Dale Dareing, of Valley View, Texas, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, the officer in charge of the brigade’s rail operations. “I’m here to help our Soldiers understand how to safely load and guide these vehicles where they need to be.”

Shipping the vehicles being to Fort Polk is an important part of the brigade’s Culminating Training Event, as this prepares the unit to complete its mission during the upcoming deployment to Iraq this fall.

Sgt. Jeremy Norton, a cavalry scout from Clarksville, Tenn., assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, assisted with vehicle movement and believes this is a key part of being successful during JRTC. The combat veteran who is currently preparing to embark on his third deployment in four years believes this training rotation will give him the opportunity to further mentor his troops on their tactical vehicles.

“Conducting operations like this can’t do anything but help us in the long run,” said Norton. “You can never be too prepared before a deployment.”

The troops will continue gearing up for their 30-day brigade level field exercise by shipping the rest of their tactical vehicles and equipment this week.

(Right) Sgt. Jeremy Norton, a cavalry scout from Clarksville, Tenn., assigned to the 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, guides a track vehicle onto a rail car at the rail operations center, June 2.

New commander takes HCD reins

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – On his horse, with saber in hand, Capt. David Jackson took command of the 1st Cavalry Division’s Horse Cavalry Detachment from Capt. Jay Bunte, May 27, at their horse stables on Fort Hood, Texas.

Less than 30 minutes later, during his initiation by the HCD troopers, he was drenched in a cesspool of horse manure. He gave his first interview with local media, with not only pieces of horse dung on his face, but the biggest smile someone could have.

Jackson, of Jacksonville, Texas, came to the HCD from Company B, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., where he served as the maintenance control officer.

“You bring with you a tremendous reputation, and I know you are ready to fill the big boots of Horse Cavalry Detachment commander,” said Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, 1st Cav. Div.’s commanding general.

Allyn attributed the “First Team’s” support from local communities to the HCD, and its quality troopers.

“Troopers, you represent a one-of-a-kind unit, and you do it extremely well ... continue to maintain the heritage and history of this great Cavalry tradition with honor and distinction.”

During Bunte’s speech, he told Jackson that he was the “luckiest” captain in the U.S. Army. “The reins are yours now,” he



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn (center), 1st Cavalry Division’s commanding general, hands Capt. David Jackson, of Jacksonville, Texas, the unit guidon, during the Horse Cavalry Detachment’s Change-of-Command ceremony May 27, as Jackson takes over from Capt. Jay Bunte (right).

said to Jackson. “I am confident division picked the right man for the job.”

Jackson, who said he is very fortunate to command such a unique detachment, said he looks forward to working with the local communities.

“It’s been said that quality is like buying hay; if you want nice, clean, fresh hay, you must pay fair price ... however, if you can be satisfied with hay that has already been through the horse, that comes a little cheaper,” said Jackson. ~See *REINS* pg2

~*Reins* from pg1

“In saying that, the Horse Cavalry Detachment is a high quality unit and the price of excellence does not come cheaply, and the high standards of this prestigious unit will be upheld.”


Jackson, like Bunte before him, has no riding experience. What he will face is a six-month training period by Larry Borth, the civilian trainer and stable master from Gatesville, Texas, and a Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Davis, of Columbus, Miss., the senior Army rider.

“He’s gonna fall off a lot throughout the training,” Borth predicted from his past experiences with former commanders.

After two years as the HCD commander, Bunte, will move on to the Captain’s Career Course at Fort Sill, Okla.

During Bunte’s tenure as commander, the HCD demonstration team traveled to countless destinations through the country, performing for crowds and helping with U.S. Army Recruiting efforts.

Capt. David Jackson, of Jacksonville, Texas, takes the reins of the 1st Cavalry Division’s Horse Cavalry Detachment, here, May 27. Jackson takes over command from Capt. Jay Bunte. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, 1st Cav. Div. PAO)



Every dog has its day: 1st Cav. Div. Horse Det. dog dons SGT stripes

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Just about every school, sports team, and most every Army unit has a mascot of some sort.

The 1st Cavalry Division’s Horse Cavalry Detachment is no different. Although they have many different horses and mules, it was a left-for-dead mutt who captured their hearts and would eventually become their “best” mascot ever.

After six years with the HCD, as the protector of the wagon, “Cpl. Buddy,” was promoted to the rank of sergeant in a ceremony by outgoing HCD commander, Capt. Jay Bunte, at the horse stables May 27, on Fort Hood, Texas.

Buddy, an Australian Sheppard/Blue Heeler mix, has a story that is somewhat of folklore.

The story, told by Sgt. 1st Class Filberto Fernandez, the HCD’s first sergeant, started in 2004, where a former HCD trooper found Buddy near a highway, left for dead. The former member took Buddy to a veterinarian to be treated for his injuries from being struck by a vehicle. He stayed with the trooper until he was healthy.

When the trooper eventually retired from the Army, he offered Buddy up as a mascot to the HCD. They gladly accepted, Fernandez said.

Back in 2004, their mascot then was a dog named, “Cpl. Deitz.”

“Oooh, he was mean dog,” Fernandez recalled. “He wouldn’t let anyone near the wagon. That little dog would bite you; he’d bite the ‘newbies.’”

After the day was done, Cpl. Dietz would move to their Charge-of-Quarters office and not let anyone in to pull their duty either. “He would guard everything like it was his own,” Fernandez added. “We just couldn’t use him in public.”

At one point, Cpl. Dietz had been a sergeant himself, until he was reprimanded for going “AWOL,” or absent without leave. After a show, Dietz, just jumped off the wagon and disappeared for a couple of days. When he returned, the HCD issued him an Article 15; punishment that included a reduction in rank.

The next year, Pvt. Buddy then, would come on board and learn the ropes from Dietz, but Buddy picked up the job and was quickly embraced by not only the HCD troopers, but by the public they would perform for.

During normal days, Buddy goes on morning runs with the troopers, with a slight limp from the accident that brought him to the team. Buddy spends most of the rest of the day walking around the horse stables. Troopers, newbies and visitors take a moment to pat his head as he walks by. As a sergeant now, Buddy outranks a vast majority of the members of the HCD. Yet, Pfc. Zachariah Riech of Mt. Vernon, Ill., noted that “all” the animals in the stables outrank all of them as newbies.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Newly promoted Sgt. Buddy, has been the Horse Cavalry Detachment’s mascot since 2004. Sgt. Buddy was promoted during a quiet ceremony May 27, at the Horse Cavalry Detachment’s Headquarters



THE CAVALRY CHARGE

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Greywolf trooper receives Purple Heart

By Spc. Sharla Lewis
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas — A 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldier was awarded the Purple Heart Medal last week for the injuries he sustained during a combat patrol in Mosul, Iraq last November.

Spc. Michael Cox, a gunner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and his patrol were tasked with escorting Mosul's Provincial Reconstruction Team to a hospital November 16, 2009.

As the patrol left, an armor-piercing grenade was thrown from over a cement barrier and exploded when it hit the rear vehicle in the patrol, Cox's vehicle. The concussion of the explosion knocked him unconscious and he sustained shrapnel wounds to his right arm and legs. As he regained consciousness, Cox pulled

himself back up to the turret and manned his weapon until he was ordered to receive treatment.

Reluctant to talk about the incident, Cox said he was honored to receive the medal and that his training played into his actions that day.

"I saw that the medic was already treating someone," he said. "I just did what I've been trained to do."

Cox received the award in front of his leaders and peers, during a ceremony June 4. Standing alone in front of the battalion formation as Col. Douglas Crissman pinned the medal on him as leaders and troopers gathered to congratulate him

Spc. Michael Cox (right), with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division receives the Purple Heart Medal for injuries he sustained in a combat patrol last November.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis, 3rd HBCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div

“3rd Brigade was one of the final two major U.S. ground combat units in Vietnam.”

JUNE 29

THIS MONTH IN 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION HISTORY

June 29, 1972 ~ The 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd brigade leaves Vietnam

No longer a conventional infantry unit, the division had become an air assault division as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commonly referred to as the 1st Air Cavalry Division, using helicopters as troop carriers. The division's colors and unit designations were transferred to the 11th Air Assault Division (Test), then at Ft. Benning, Georgia, in July 1965, and began deploying to Camp Radcliffe, An Khe, Vietnam that month. The division, along with the 101st Airborne Division perfected new tactics and doctrine for helicopter-borne assaults over the next five years in Vietnam.

The unit's first major operation was the Pleiku Campaign. During this action, the division conducted 35 days of continuous airmobile operations. The opening battle, the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, was described in the book *We Were Soldiers Once...And Young* which was also the basis of the subsequent Mel Gibson film *We Were Soldiers*. The unit also earned the first Presidential Unit Citation (US) presented to a division during the Vietnam War.

Most of 1967 was spent in Operation Pershing. This was a large scale search of areas in II Corps which saw 5,400 enemy killed and 2,000 captured. The division re-deployed to Camp Evans, north of Hue in the I Corps Tactical Zone, during the 1968 Tet Offensive, involved in recapturing Quang Tri and Hue. After intense fighting in Hue, the division then moved to relieve Marine Corps units besieged at the Khe Sanh combat base (Operation Pegasus) in March 1968. The 1st Cavalry Division next conducted major clearing operations in the A Shau Valley from mid-April through mid-May, 1968. From May until September 1968 the division participated in local pacification and "MedCap" (Medical outreach programs to offer medical support to the Vietnamese local population) missions I Corps.

In the autumn of 1968, the 1st Cavalry Division relocated south to the III Corps Tactical Zone northwest of Saigon, adjacent to a Cambodian region commonly referred to as the "Parrots Beak" due to its shape. In May, 1970, the division was among U.S. units participating in the Cambodian Incursion, withdrawing from Cambodia on 29 June. The division thereafter took a defensive posture while the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam continued. The bulk of the division was withdrawn on 29 April 1971, but its 3rd Brigade was one of the final two major U.S. ground combat units in Vietnam, departing 29 June 1972. Its 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, as the main unit of Task Force Garry Owen, remained another two months.



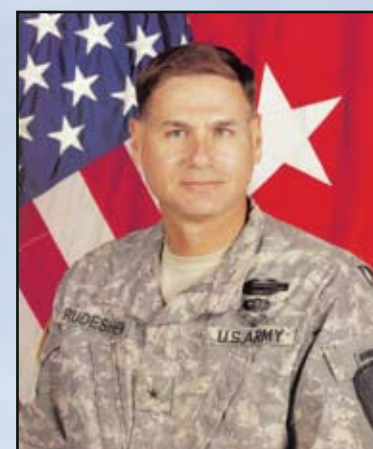
Casualties in Vietnam
5,444 Killed in Action
26,592 Wounded in Action

Hanging up their spurs:

Brig. Gen. Murray, Rudesheim say farewell to the Cav

My Stetson has a business card sized note inside the hat band. It reads; "LIKE HELL IT'S YOURS!!! This Stetson Belongs To LTC Fred Rudesheim" But you can get one like it from the Crossed Sabers Gift Shop HEADHUNTERS!

It reminds me that I've been associated with the 1st CAV since 1997 when I took command of 1-9 CAV, then in third brigade. It also reminds me that being in the CAV feels good, leaving it feels bad. Yes, I know, every unit you're in is "the best unit in the Army," but I really feel something special in the CAV. It's that feeling that you're part of something much bigger than yourself, and you don't want to let your fellow troopers down, no matter what. I love sounding off with "First Team!" or responding with "Live the Legend!" But it's not just about a lot of flare and panache (the CAV does have both), it's about a tradition of excellence that you don't dare tarnish. Getting a Stetson symbolizes a commitment to the CAV, but it doesn't automatically make you a stalwart trooper. You don't want to be one of those "big hat, no cattle" kind of soldiers—you know, all form, no substance. As I depart, as all must do at some point, I know the CAV is in great hands (as it always is). It's been by distinct honor and humbling privilege to have been Pegasus 8. We've got a big patch and a lot to live up to. My ride ends, but you have the penetrating, inescapable gaze of all past troopers still upon you. So don your Stetsons and, "Live the Legend!"



After seven straight years at Fort Hood, just over four of them with the First Team, there are so many great memories and so many people to thank for them. Jane and I have made too many good friends to mention them all by name, both in and out of uniform, and we will forever be grateful for the privilege of knowing and serving with each of you – you know who you are! The saddest part about leaving is that you really don't realize just how lucky you are to serve with America's First Team and at "The Great Place" until it is time to go. To serve in a unit with the tradition and legacy of the 1st Cavalry Division, with a core of proud veterans that never let you forget that legacy of honor, surrounded by the most supportive communities in world has been an honor that Jane and I will never forget. Of course, the greatest honor has been serving with the Troopers who have made three tough deployments to Iraq over the past seven years, those that have not only "lived the legend" but built upon it. It is their commitment and sacrifices, and those of their families, which we will carry with us forever. After spending almost a third of my career at Fort Hood, Jane and I leave looking forward to the day we return to Central Texas and the opportunity to reunite with great friends. Until that day comes, we wish all of you nothing but the very best.

Learning to "live the legend"

By Spc. Kim Browne
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Being assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division is an experience all in itself. Its traditions and standards are different, and for some, more exciting than any other traditional Army unit.

For new division Soldiers to better understand the Cav heritage, the division now holds a monthly newcomers briefing and encourages all new division Soldiers and their family members to attend.

When Soldiers initially arrive to Fort Hood, they learn of the various installation programs and services offered to them; including III Corps standards and policies.

Therefore new division Soldiers that attend "First Team" newcomer briefings learn what sets the division apart from the pack. The briefing touches on the

division's timely traditions, history and current way of life. They learn to "Live the Legend" and what it means to be a member of America's "First Team."

During the division's first newcomers brief held June 8, new Soldiers and Family members were able to see how a change of command is conducted within the division, along with the famous cavalry charge.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, the division's commanding general, told the Soldiers and their family of the lineage they are now carrying, and how the division's alumni are proud of the way we have been upholding its name and maintaining its heritage.

He informed them that Killeen, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, Temple, and Austin all say that we are their division and how the 1st Cav. Div. maintains that standard for Fort Hood.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Norman,



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kim Browne 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Spc. Brian Baskins, of Kershaw, S.C., holds his daughter Anna during the 1st Cavalry Division's newcomers briefing, June 8, at the Phantom Warrior Center.

1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., spoke on tradition and how the division upholds the standard. He touched on the wearing of the Stetson and spurs and what they mean to the division. However, leadership standards within the division were greatly emphasized in his portion of the briefing.

All-in-all, the new division Soldiers and their Family members were given an insight to its traditions, a stepping stone on how to maintain its standards, further assistance in making its history and what it really means to be a part of America's "First Team" and to "Live the Legend".



A 12 mile ruck march leaves quite the impression on Wharton, Texas native Sgt. Timothy Long. Covering the area with mole skin, he, prepares himself to run the gauntlet of Combat based scenarios during this 1st Cavalry Division, Non Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the year competition June 1, here at Fort Hood, Texas.

Running the Gauntlet

BY SPC. ADAM TURNER
1ST CAV DIV PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Wharton, Texas native Sgt. Timothy Long, a shop foreman with the 41st Fires Brigade, removes the flack vest from a simulated casualty during the 1st Cavalry Division, Non Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition June 1, here at Fort Hood. Competitors are evaluated on how quickly and efficiently they apply combat lifesaver skills to prepare the casualty for "MEDEVAC" (medical evacuation).



After assembling a field radio Sgt. Timothy Long, assigned to the 220th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade here at Fort Hood, Texas moves tactically towards his next objective. Pausing briefly to pull security of the area Long is then instructed to attend to the simulated casualty.